

2,2-Dithiobis(4-Tert-Butyl-1-Isopropyl)-Imidazole, 4-(dimethylamino)phenyl disulfide, 2-Acetamidophenyl Disulfide, 2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl Disulfide, 4-Acetamidophenyl Disulfide, 2-(Ethoxycarboxamido)phenyl Disulfide, 3-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 4-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 2-Aminophenyl Disulfide, 2,2 Dithiobis(benzonitrile), *p*-Tolyl Disulfoxide, 2,4,5-Trichlorophenyl Disulfide, 4-Methylsulfonyl-2-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 4-Methylsulfonyl-2-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 3,3-Dithiodipropionic Acid, N,N-Diformyl-L-Cystine, Trans-1,2-Dithiane-4,5-Diol, 2-Chloro-5-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 2-Amino-4-Chlorophenyl Disulfide, 5,5-Dithiobis(2-Nitrobenzoic Acid), 2,2-Dithiobis(1-Naphtylamine), 2,4-Dinitrophenyl *p*-Tolyl Disulfide, 4-Nitrophenyl *p*-Tolyl Disulfide, and 4-Chloro-3-Nitrophenyl Disulfideformamidine disulfide dihydrochloride.

26 24. (NEW) The composition of claim 22, wherein the compound selected from the group consisting of disulfides having the formula R-S-S-R.

27 25. (NEW) The composition of claim 22, wherein the compound is Aldrithiol-2.

28 26. (NEW) The composition of claim 22, wherein the retrovirus is selected from the group consisting of *Lentiviruses* and *Oncoviruses*.

29 27. (NEW) The composition of claim 26, wherein said retrovirus is an HIV-1 retrovirus.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 to 21 are pending in this divisional application as filed. Claims 1 to 21 are canceled and claims 22 to 27 are added in the instant amendment. Proposed new claims 22 to 27 are similar to claims 29 to 34 of the parent application which were withdrawn, as explained below.

The Restriction and Withdrawal of Claims in Parent Application

In the parent application USSN 08/379,420 in a response dated July 31, 1998, Applicants added by amendment new claims 29 to 34 drawn to compositions comprising inactivated retroviruses. In response, in the Office Action dated October 26, 1998 (page 1, paragraph 1), the Patent Office alleged that the inactivated retrovirus compositions (of claims 29 to 34) were sufficiently unrelated to the invention as claimed in (USSN 08/379,420's) claims 1 to 28 (drawn to methods and kits for dissociating zinc from retroviral zinc fingers) to require (under 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b) and MPEP §821.03) that they be withdrawn from further consideration (in the parent USSN 08/379,420).

Support for the Claim Amendments

The specification sets forth an extensive description of the invention in the new claims. Support for new claims directed to compositions comprising an inactivated retrovirus, wherein the retrovirus is inactivated by contact with a zinc finger inactivating compound of the invention, is found, *inter alia*, at page 11, lines 20 to 23, where the specification states that it will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art that once inactivated, the retrovirus can be used, e.g., as vaccines, as prophylactics, or as components in standard ELISA assays for the diagnosis of retroviral infections. Support for new claims directed to compositions comprising an inactivated retrovirus, where the retrovirus is inactivated by use of a specific compound, is found, *inter alia*, in Example 4, particularly, Table 2, at pages 31 to 33, of the specification. Support for new claims directed to compositions comprising an inactivated retrovirus, where the retrovirus is selected from the group consisting of *Lentiviruses* and *Oncoviruses*, and particularly, HIV-1, is found, *inter alia*, at page 1, lines 24 to 28, and claims 3, 8, 9 and 20, as filed.


CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully believe that all claims pending in this application (after entry of the instant amendment) are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned or Ken Weber at (415) 576-0200.

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

Respectfully submitted,


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